THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the instant application. The Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Listing of claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating information in a server platform, the method comprising:

receiving at least a first packet from a first blade server of a plurality of blade servers at a first data rate;

determining whether one or both of at least a second blade server of said plurality of blade servers and a network is to receive said at least said first packet;

negotiating a data rate for transfer of data between said first blade server and at least said second blade server; and

transferring data responsive to said received at least said first packet to one or both of said determined at least said second blade server at said negotiated data rate, and said determined network at one of a second data rate or said negotiated data rate.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising transferring at least a second packet comprising at least a portion of said at least said first received packet to said second blade server at said negotiated data rate.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising transferring said at least a portion of said at least said first received packet to said at least said second blade server via a common bus.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising receiving at least a third packet from said network at said second data rate.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, comprising determining at least a third blade server that is to receive said at least said third packet.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, comprising transferring data responsive to said third packet to said third blade server at a newly negotiated data rate.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, comprising transferring at least a portion of said at least said third packet to said third blade server at a newly negotiated data rate.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising transferring a fourth packet to said network via a network interface at said second data rate.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising broadcasting a plurality of packets over said network at said second data rate.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising broadcasting at least said at least said first packet to said first blade server and said second blade server at a newly negotiated data rate.

11. (Previously Presented) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having at least one code section for communicating information in a

server platform, the at least one code section being executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform steps comprising:

receiving at least a first packet from a first blade server of a plurality of blade servers at a first data rate;

determining whether one or both of at least a second blade server of said plurality of blade servers and a network is to receive said at least said first packet;

negotiating a data rate for transfer of data between said first blade server and at least said second blade server; and

transferring data responsive to said received at least said first packet to one or both of said determined at least said second blade server at said negotiated data rate, and said determined network at one of a second data rate or said negotiated data rate.

12. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for transferring at least a second packet comprising at least a portion of said at least said first received packet to said second blade server at said negotiated data rate.

13. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for transferring said at least a portion of said at least said first received packet to said at least said second blade server via a common bus.

14. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for receiving at least a third packet from said network at said second data rate.

15. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 14, comprising code for determining at least a third blade server that is to receive said at least said third packet.

16. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 15, comprising code for transferring data responsive to said third packet to said third blade server at a newly negotiated data rate.

17. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 15, comprising code for transferring at least a portion of said at least said third packet to said third blade server at a newly negotiated data rate.

18. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for transferring a fourth packet to said network via a network interface at said second data rate.

19. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for broadcasting a plurality of packets over said network at said second data rate.

20. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, comprising code for broadcasting at least said at least said first packet to said first blade server and said second blade server at a newly negotiated data rate.

21. (Previously Presented) A system for communicating information in a server platform, the system comprising:

at least one switch blade that receives at least a first packet from a first blade server of a plurality of blade servers at a first data rate;

said at least one switch blade determines whether one or both of at least a second blade server of said plurality of blade servers and a network is to receive said at least said first packet;

said at least one switch blade negotiates a data rate for transfer of data between said first blade server and at least said second blade server; and

said at least one switch blade transfers data responsive to said received at least said first packet to one or both of said determined at least said second blade server at said negotiated data rate, and said determined network at one of a second data rate or said negotiated data rate.

22. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one switch blade transfers at least a second packet comprising at least a portion of said at least said first received packet to said second blade server at said negotiated data rate.

23. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one switch blade transfers said at least a portion of said at least said first received packet to said at least said second blade server via a common bus.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one switch blade receives at least a third packet from said network at said second data rate.

25. (Original) The system according to claim 24 wherein said at least one switch blade determines at least a third blade server that is to receive said at least said third packet.

26. (Original) The system according to claim 25, wherein said at least one switch blade transfers data responsive to said third packet to said third blade server at a newly negotiated data rate.

27. (Original) The system according to claim 25, wherein said at least one switch blade transfers at least a portion of said at least said third packet to said third blade server at a newly negotiated data rate.

28. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one switch blade transfers a fourth packet to said network via a network interface at said second data rate.

29. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one switch blade broadcasts a plurality of packets over said network at said second data rate.

30. (Original) The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one switch blade broadcasts at least said at least said first packet to said first blade server and said second blade server at a newly negotiated data rate.